

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed October 29, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 7, 2006; April 2, 2008; and July 9, 2009.

Claims 1-21 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 10, 13, 15 and 19 (page 7, Paper No. 20091004). Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claims 14 and 18 as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0150843 to Doi. Paragraph 8 of the Official Action rejects claims 9 and 11 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0046088 to Sano and U.S. Publication No. 2004/0228004 to Sercel. Paragraph 10 of the Official Action rejects claim 12 as obvious based on the combination of Sano, Sercel and JP 10-286683 to Taniguchi. Paragraph 12 of the Official Action rejects claims 16 and 20 as obvious based on the combination of Doi and Sano. In response, claims 9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 16 and 20 have been amended to solely depend from allowed claims 13 and 19, respectively. At this opportunity, claims 10, 13, 15 and 19 have been amended to change "convex spherical lens" to "convex lens." Therefore, independent claims 10, 13, 15 and 19 recite allowable subject matter, and the above-referenced rejections are believed to be moot. Claims 1-8 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 10, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are currently elected, of which claims 10, 13, 15 and 19 are independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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